

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06055 301733Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO USINFO WASHDC
USCINCEUR-EUCAP VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS
SECSTATE WASHDC 4745
USICA WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS MADRID 06055

SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE; EUR/RPM
USICA FOR PGM/F

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION NATO SUMMIT

1. ALL MADRID DAILIES TODAY CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF NATO SUMMIT.
2. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL LEFT "EL PAIS" SAID: "THE EVENTUAL ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO WILL BE ONE OF THE CENTRAL THEMES OF THE SO-CALLED 'SECRET AGENDA' OR PRIVATE SESSION OF THE SPRING MEETING OF NATO WHICH, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF THESE NATIONS AND AT THE LEVEL OF A SUMMIT, BEGINS TODAY."
3. "EL PAIS" GOES ON TO SAY THAT, ACCORDING TO NATO SOURCES: "THE EVENTUAL INCORPORATION OF SPAIN INTO NATO AND ITS ORGANISMS (FIRST AT THE POLITICAL, THEN AT THE MILITARY LEVEL) IS PART OF A PLAN OR PROGRAM LAID OUT BY THE GROUP WHICH HEADS THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

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4. CONSERVATIVE ABC NOTES THAT "THE SUBJECT OF SPAIN WILL NOT BE TREATED, AT LEAST NOT OPENLY, AT THE CONFERENCE. THERE IS A TACIT AGREEMENT AMONG NATO MEMBERS THAT, ALTHOUGH SPAIN'S EARLY ENTRY WOULD BE BENEFICIAL, THE MOST PRUDENT COURSE IS NOT TO EXERT PRESSURE AND TO LEAVE IT TO THE SPANISH TO

DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES."

5. CATHOLIC CENTRIST "YA" IN AN EDITORIAL NOTED THAT THE THEME OF SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO WOULD BE TAKEN UP EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT ON THE FORMAL AGENDA. IT GOES ON TO SAY: "A ROLE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IS RESERVED FOR SPAIN IN NATO. THE STRENGTHENING OF EASTERN BLOC IN EUROPE -- THE WARSAW PACT -- PARALLELS THE INCREASED SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. AND WHILE MOSCOW IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO KEEP SPAIN OUT OF NATO, THIS ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO OFFER US OPPORTUNITIES TO ENABLE IT TO HOOK ONTO THE WESTERN DEFENSE TRAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."
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